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Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I strongly support the settlement recently agreed to by the federal government and Microsoft with regard to their antitrust lawsuit. The cost of this ordeal in monetary terms, as well as the setbacks it caused to innovation are staggering. It is time to move forward and repair the damage. The settlement is a good start in this endeavor.

The settlement is a comprehensive approach to remedying Microsoft's alleged wrongdoings. Its adversaries should be very pleased with it, instead of attempting to derail it, as they are. Contrary to popular belief, the settlement foists some very stringent terms onto Microsoft. Microsoft must share interfaces with its competitors. It also is charged with avoiding any form of agreement with another company to distribute Windows at a fixed rate.

There are even more terms like this that work to fence Microsoft in after its allegedly overaggressive business model became hugely successful. The settlement achieves what it set out to do - increase the competition in the market - and so the judge should effect the settlement. Microsoft's adversaries should be quite pleased with the tenets of the settlement and should stop trying to derail its finalization by the court. The only reason its competitors are against this settlement is to put their own financial interests ahead of fair competition and the public interest. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Karen Christian
General Partner